

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia



February 2008

West Fairview Community Development Block Grant Rehab Project Underway

In early January of 2008, Northampton County executed a Community Development Block Grant agreement from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to implement a housing rehabilitation project for the West Fairview area. All required pre-agreement documents and certifications were completed and adopted by the County in November of 2007. The West Fairview Housing Rehabilitation Grant includes all areas of Fairview not covered by the 2000 East Fairview CDBG. The \$592,400 of CDBG funds will be used to rehabilitate 5 occupied houses and replace 7 occupied, unrepairable houses, including 2 with no indoor plumbing.



West Fairview House slated for assistance

The project also has funding commitments from Southeast Rural Community Action Project to help with the cost of installing 10 new deep wells and 9 septic systems and from the local VESEEHC to help convert tenant families into first time homeowners.

A-NPDC staff has begun working with the families of West Fairview to determine eligibility for assistance, and has begun the process of obtaining the required sewer and zoning permits. For more information, call David Annis at 757-787-2936, ext 126.

Homeownership Orientation Classes and the Homebuyer Education Process

The Accomack-Northampton Regional Housing Authority will be conducting its second Homeownership Orientation Class on Wednesday, February 13 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Front Street location. The Homeownership Orientation Class is the first step in the Homebuyer Education Process. This class will provide an overview of the Homebuying Process and address topics such as the advantages and disadvantages of buying a home, credit scoring, preparing for the loan application and a summary of loan programs and products.

Upon completion of the Orientation class, attendees will receive a call from the Housing Counselor to schedule a one-on-one appointment to review their personal financial situations. Depending on their readiness to purchase, the clients will either move on to the Growing Your Money Classes, a five part series of financial literacy classes, or straight to the all-day Homeownership Workshop. For more information on the orientation classes and the education process, please contact Patricia Connolly Grove, Homeownership Counselor, at 757-787-2800, ext 124.

This Issue

West Fairview CDBG Rehab Project Underway

Homeownership Orientation Classes & the Homebuyer Education Process

Indoor Plumbing Rehab/Loan Program

New Appointees for A-NPDC

Septic Pump-out Assistance Program

Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation/Loan Program

The Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation/Loan Program (IPR) provides 0% interest loans in non-entitlement cities and counties of Virginia to low and moderate income (LMI) owner-occupants of substandard housing where indoor plumbing does not exist or where the existing water delivery or waste disposal system has failed. The program also provides for the general rehabilitation of these units, and for accessibility improvements or relief from overcrowded conditions, as needed, once the primary income, ownership and failed plumbing criteria are met.

The IPR Program was initiated by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development and has been in operation since 1989. The program is funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and HOME funds provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Over the years, the IPR Program has evolved to better meet the needs of its clients and subrecipients, while upholding programmatic regulations and the major policy tenets of the Board of the Virginia Department of



House lacking indoor plumbing

Housing and Community Development. Among those tenets are: 1) that only those houses which lack functional indoor plumbing would qualify for assistance; 2) program beneficiaries will repay the loan funds based upon their abilities to pay; and 3) self-help and ownership opportunities will create responsibility for ongoing property main-

tenance and increase wealth for lower income participants.

The Department of Housing and Community Development contracts with subrecipients (local governments, non-profit housing providers, and housing authorities) to administer the IPR program. The sub-recipients are responsible for most program operations including outreach, application intake, beneficiary and property eligibility determination, financial packaging, construction management, and loan servicing. Each subrecipient has direct ties to the community via its local housing rehabilitation advisory board. Each beneficiary household receives training in home maintenance, cleaning and budgeting. The Accomack-Northampton Housing and Redevelopment Corporation (A-NHRC) is the sub-recipient for Accomack and Northampton Counties.

The A-NHRC maintains a waiting list for applicants for the program. The list is currently being updated. For more information on the program or to apply, call Patti Merritt at 787-2936, ext 119.



Replacement house

NEW APPOINTEES FOR A-NPDC

At its meeting held on January 3, 2008, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors appointed E. Philip McCaleb to replace Reneta Major as a member of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission. At the same meeting, the Board appointed Mr. McCaleb (also to replace Ms. Major) to serve on the Eastern Shore Groundwater Committee. And, on January 16, 2008 the Board appointed John C. Gray to re-

place Sandy Hart Mears on the Commission. At its January 14, 2008 meeting, the Northampton County Board of Supervisors appointed Spencer Murray and William Hughes, replacing Andrew Barbour and Jeffrey Walker, to the Commission. Also at that meeting, the Board appointed Dave Burden, replacing Suzanne Wescoat, to serve on the Eastern Shore Groundwater Committee. Their terms are to begin immediately.

SEPTIC PUMP-OUT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On a first-come, first-served basis, there is a septic pump-out assistance program available for any and all income qualifying Northampton County property owners. This program is also available for income qualifying Accomack County property owners whose land drains into the Chesapeake Bay. Funds are limited, and applica-

tions are due by March 7, 2008. Vouchers will be issued for \$175 for approved applicants. Contact Irv "BK" Kurzbard at the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm at 757-787-2800 extension 101 to see if you qualify and to register for the program.



How to Contact
the A-NPDC

If you have questions or would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact the Planning District Commission.

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